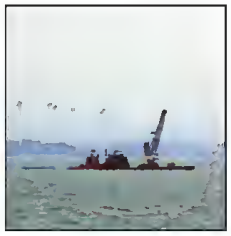
The Fort Erie Times
www.forterietimes.com
Saturday, March 3, 2012



Ice Boom removed

Record set for earliest removal since 1965

05

Empty shelves at COPE

Food bank needs many items

09

• Meteors face Canucks in playoffs

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Bowling for the kids

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Minnie Western, left, Daphne Torr and her 'little' Carmen Burke were all smiles at Fort Erie Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids' Sake on Sunday. Executive director Sondra Barrett says the agency is far behind where it should be to meet its $45,000 goal. Go to page 13 to read more about it.

Audit process done

All six candidates scrutinized in the clear and face no penalties

Kris Dubé
The Times

The Niagara Compliance Audit Committee has decided that no action should be taken against five members of council and another candidate from the 2010 election, for contraventions of the Ontario Municipal Act- related to campaign expenses.

On Tuesday evening, the committee heard statements from the firm that conducted the audits into councillors John Hill, Don Lubberts and Paul Collard, along with the three councillors in question and the individuals who filed applications against them. On Wednesday, audit reports on the expenses of Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero, mayor Doug Martin and mayoral runner-up Ann-Marie Noyes were heard.

The committee voted that no infraction was serious enough to see legal action taken against the politicians and did not recommended them being moved from office.

See Page 2

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Several contraventions considered only minor in nature by committee

From Page 1

"We're all responsible for our own actions and we have to follow the laws," she said before the committee.

"We need to send a message, we are holding our politicians accountable," she added.

Butler seemed most taken back by Hill's acceptance of a cheque from an ineligible U.S. resident, along with a donation from the Fort Erie Waterfront Preservation Association (FEWPA), a group formed to oppose the 12-storey condo project at Bay Beach.

By municipal law, candidates can receive funds during their campaigns from corporations...but not associations like FEWPA.

"They are not a business, they are an association," said Butler about FEWPA.

In Hill's remarks, he reiterated a point already made by the auditor that he returned the $200 donation to Mr. Ken Smith, the U.S. resident who contributed to his campaign.

In the Act, it says any donation that contravenes the law must be returned as soon as possible... which he did after the application was filed against him.

"This, in my opinion, not only conveys my accountability to the Act, it shows the transparency of my reporting," said Hill, who admitted that there are things to learn from, running for office the first time in his life.

"There are lessons to be taken away from this experience," he added.

The next councillor to sit in the hot seat was Don Lubberts, who had an application filed against him by Martha Lockwood, the incumbent in the Ward 5 race who was defeated by Lubberts in the October 2010 election.

The same allegation directed at Hill, that a $200 donation from a U.S. resident was illegal, was also part of the criticism against Lubberts' spending.

In the auditor's report, it is said that Lubberts had a number of errors, omissions and misstatements in his financial statements such as providing an incorrect date for one of his fundraisers, a failure to include all contributions and under-reporting his own personal contributions.

Lockwood feels these errors should result in a penalty, other than just a slap on the wrist.

"When candidates break the rules, there should be consequences," she said.

Lockwood also questioned the amount of "foreign involvement" Lubberts had attached to his campaign, as many U.S. summer residents were on his side leading up to the election.

In his remarks, Lubberts said he spoke to someone at Municipal Affairs who in his interpretation, told him that there was nothing wrong with that.

"I don't know if foreign involvement had anything to do with how I got elected," said Lubberts.

Ward 6 Coun. Paul Collard was challenged by Larry Graber, the runner-up in the bid to represent Stevensville in the election.

The most pressing allegation towards him was the fact that he didn't open a separate bank account for his campaign.

> **"I never denied, or tried to hide anything."**
>
> *— Ward 6 Coun. Paul Collard*

Graber admitted that he wasn't under the impression Collard was involved in any corrupt activity, but feels such an oversight being considered only a minor mistake will set a precedent for candidates in future elections that rules can be bent.

"Mr Collard's action, or lack thereof, must be enforced," said Graber.

"It would make the municipal elections act a mockery."

Collard agreed he made an error and said he was fully aware of the possible consequences that failing to open a separate account might bring... but he didn't know he was doing anything wrong at the time.

"I never denied, or tried to hide anything," said Collard.

"I learned a valuable lesson," he added.

On Wednesday, the first audit report to be discussed was Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero's. The primary infraction on his statement was not including an $850 invoice for a campaign website and a $350 cash contribution from his mother, when any contributions greater than $25 need to be made by cheque.

He too, like many of his colleagues who were under fire, was apologetic for his mistakes.

"I don't blame the applicant for pointing them out," said Passero.

Former councillor Richard Berry filed the application against Passero.

Local resident John Gilmour filed the application for an audit into the campaign spending of mayor Doug Martin, claiming he incorrectly calculated the value of the signs he used to promote his campaign, since he re-used some from the 2006 election.

Gilmour feels this gave him an advantage.... considering after two recounts, it was determined that Martin won the election by five votes.

"All of this hinges on the fact that the election was so close," said Gilmour.

Martin thanked the committee and the auditor for a fair and balanced process in his remarks.

The next day, he was relieved that he and other members of council are able to get back to politics and running the municipality.

"We can finally say with some certainty that the election is over and get back to business without this hanging over all of council," he said.

An application was also filed against mayoral runner-up Ann-Marie Noyes for purchasing a website domain name before the timeframe in which candidates could begin spending.

All candidates under fire were cleared of any severe wrongdoing and no action will be taken against any of them.

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Business donates to soup kitchen

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Pastors Dave and Kathy Stephenson from the Lighthouse Diner Soup Kitchen and Clothing Depot receiving a cheque from Vivianne and Scott Cooney from Grapes on the Ridge, on Thursday. The local business donated $550 from pledges Scott collected before participating in the annual Polar Bear Dip, earlier this year.

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by Alaina Hiller, M.Cl.Sc
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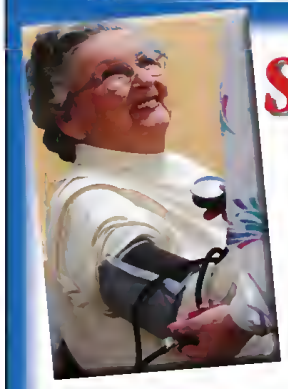

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Chamber gets behind horse racing industry

Board of directors passes resolution opposing possibility of cutting funds

The Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce has an issue with at least one of the provincial government's 362 cost saving recommendations which would severely impact Ontario's race track industry.

As such, the Chamber's board of directors have passed a resolution which directly opposes the government's suggestion to eliminate the Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG) Slots at the Racetrack's revenue sharing program in order to apply the money toward the province's $16 billion deficit.

"Racetracks are an economic engine within many rural communities and is a lead sector for rural jobs across the province. Our Chamber of Commerce is signaling our support for the racing industry with this resolution, and we are calling on our fellow chambers across Ontario to do the same," said chamber president Stephen Passero.

"The government's decision to target an industry that provides employment to 60,000 individuals and provides hundreds of millions in revenues is short sighted thinking at best. Recognizing the increase in revenues generated over the last decade, the province should not be looking to withdraw their support, but instead should be enhancing their investment and commitment going forward," added Passero, who is also councillor for Ward 1..

"They aren't considering the devastating impact their decision would have on the horse breeding and racing industry nor the financial hit to the families of 17 municipalities who rely on the industry for employment and tax base."

During the unveiling of last week's controversial Drummond Report, Ontario's finance minister Dwight Duncan announced that one of the cost-saving recommendations is to eliminate the current $345 million revenue OLG racetrack revenue sharing program.

In his public statement, Duncan suggests that the measures would allow the government to redirect the funds toward better school and hospital programs, citing that that the money would pay for more than 27,800 hip or knee replacement surgeries or province more than nine million hours of home care.

In 2010, in an effort to keep Nordic Gaming Corp. from outright selling the 115-year-old Fort Erie Racetrack, the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation, worked in tandem with the Town of Fort Erie and the Ontario Horse Benevolent Protection Agency to create a not-for-profit entity which has strategically operated the track since. According to Jim Thibert, chief executive officer for the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium (FELRC), the Fort Erie track may receive $5.6 million a year through the slots at the Race Track, but the actual revenues and spending are closer to $25 million a year for wages, benefits, goods and services and taxes paid at four levels of government. "As a deficit-cutting measure, putting race tracks in financial jeopardy is counter-intuitive," he says.

"The timing and the manner that this announcement went out, had no concerns for the fact that we have to run this year" he said, adding that live racing is scheduled to begin in Fort Erie on Sunday, May 6.

Given the grievous impact this recommendation could have on our community and province at large, the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce encourages its members, residents, and communities across Ontario to make a stand on this issue. Simply visit www.saveliveracing.com to speak your mind and join the initiative to save live racing. Your comments will automatically be sent to an extensive list of public officials including the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Premier on Ontario, Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, and more. For additional information about the impact to the horse racing industry visit the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association's website www.ohria.com.

Ice Boom taken out of Lake Erie

First year ice-barricade was installed the earliest it had been removed in the past

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

On Tuesday, crews began removing the ice boom from the Niagara River. This is the earliest it has been taken out, after the first time it was installed back in the winter of 1964-65.

A lack of ice on Lake Erie had crews removing the ice boom this week, a 22-span blockade that has been installed every year since the winter of 1964-65.

This will be the earliest it has been taken out of the lake since the first year it was placed, to prevent large formations of ice from entering the Niagara River.

Previously, March 5, 1998 held the record for the most premature removal.

Considering The absence of an ice build up below Niagara Falls and the limited potential for significant ice to form, the process to take it out started Tuesday.

The latest date the boom was removed from Lake Erie was in 1971 when heavy ice flow was consistent until May 3.

Last year, boom opening began on April 12 and was completed on April 22.

The boom is owned and operated by the New York Power Authority and Ontario Power Generation.

Use of the 22-span steel pontoon ice- barricade is authorized by the International Joint Commission with its International Niagara Board of Control overseeing the installation, operation and removal.

During years when an ice cover forms on Lake Erie, the installation of the boom substantially reduces ice accumulation that interferes with hydro-electric power production and can cause flooding and damage to shore properties.

check this out

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Fort Erie Public Library

March Break Events at Library

March Break is nearly here, and the Library has a great line-up of events, movies and workshops and even a scavenger hunt! Tickets are ready now for the movie Hugo, playing on Monday; The Amazing Corbin, who performs comedy and magic on Tuesday; the owls and eagles of the Canadian Raptor Conservancy on Wednesday; Thursday's screening of the new Muppet movie, and an Alchemy program from Mad Science on Friday. All programs are at 10:15 a.m. at the Centennial Branch, and at 1:30 p.m. at Crystal Ridge. Tickets are $2 for each program, or a bonus pack of 3 tickets for $5.

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opinion page

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TIM DUNDAS, Publisher 905–357–2440 ext. 304
tdundas@niagaracommunitynewspapers.com

KRIS DUBÉ, Editor 905–871–3100 ext. 207
editorial@forterietimes.com

MYRA ROBERTSON, Sales Manager 905–871–3100 ext. 202
mrobertson@forterietimes.com

our editorial

Big Brothers Big Sisters really needs your support

This is a serious problem and the community needs to rally until the end of April to turn it around.

We spoke to the local Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Agency this week about the Bowl for Kids' Sake campaign and the $45,000 goal is very far away.

The local charity, its staff and volunteers to remarkable things for thew youth in Fort Erie and we know that the community is aware of this, but they also need to know that the two-week long bowling extravaganza is its biggest fundraiser and could "make or break" some of the programs and services offered by BBBS.

Coming only a couple thousand dollars short of the goal would likely only have minimal impacts, but the executive director projected tbey will be about $15,000 short this year and that is devastating.

So, here you go Fort Erie residents and local businesses that haven't already made a contribution.

Are you looking for something to do that will make you feel better about yourself?

This is your cbance.

Donations will still be accepted through the BBBS office until the end of March and online donations will be collected until the end of April.

Go to the story on page 13 to find out more about making a contribution.

-Kris Dubé

Do You Remember?

Thanks to former Brownie leader and present-day mother, Bonnie Colosimo, we have full identification for last week's Do You Remember photo. In the photo, Girl Guide Rosemary Colosimo is receiving her Canada cord from her mother who got special permission to present this to her daughter. Mrs. Colosimo was a Stevensville Brownie leader while Rosemary was in Mrs. Joan Mymryk's Fort Erie troop.

Mrs. Colosimo told us that this photo was very timely as she gets together with her group of former Brownie and Girl Guide leaders every Feb. 22 to celebrate World Thinking Day, the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout Movement and his wife Olave, who served as World Chief Guide.

This week's photo shows three ladies possibly planning a trip. There is one name on the back, "Bev Arbour" along with the date, March 17, 1981. Please call the Museum at 894-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.on.ca if you know anything about this photo.

Audits just another example of rivalries within our town

Kris Dubé
Editor's Notebbok

This is one of those columns that will likely cause my name to be used more than once on a few local blogs this weekend.

Oh well, here it goes.

The audit process is just another notch in the belt of local political issues that cost a ton of money, slow the municipality down for almost a year and when it's all said and done...we are at the same place we started.

I'm not criticizing people for exercising their democratic rights, or opposing certain members of council for decisions they have made... I want to make that more clear than the Lake has been of ice this winter.

What I do find comical, for the lack of a better term, is how this is just another example of the civil war in this town.

Supporters of both mayoral candidates against one another, blog versus blog, or even how seating arrangements in the council chambers tend to form... these are all examples of what something like six candidates from an election that was a year-and-a half ago being audited continues to do to our community.

Leading up to Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, local political junkies were in fine form... posting their expectations of the audit reports and what it would mean for the members of council being challenged.

Being thrown out of office, facing large fines or jail time were all expected... and what happened in the end?

Absolutely nothing and I agree that's the way it should have been.

From the start, everyone knew there was no corrupt involvement with anyone in their campaign spending, as much as some people wished there was, so a different result may have come from the audits.

And that's the key... no corruption means no action. At least that's the understanding I took away from the two-day process at Town Hall.

I've said in the past that the most obvious contravention was made by Ward 6 Coun. Paul Collard, who missed very clear language in the Municipal Elections Act that says all candidates must open a separate bank account for their campaign.

He neglected to do this and the price he has to pay is this being on the public record.

But never once did anyone really think that Coun. Collard ever had any skeletons in his closet from his campaign.

I don't think anyone ever suspected him of accepting donations from any criminal biker gangs or groups of that nature.

Perhaps the biggest penalty for all candidates is the fact that the people who oppose their style of governance know everything about how they handled their own money for the election and are aware of the many minor mistakes that were made.

You can hold these against them but let's move on and get some business conducted, rather than pointing fingers, calling names and devoting all of your time to saying how the town should be operated.

I'm not saying people shouldn't stand up for what they believe in, but there are other things going on in life... other than what takes place every Monday night in the council chambers. If you would like to leave me feedback, call me at (905) 871-3100 ext. 207 or send me an email to editorial@forterietimes.com.

opinion page

Impact of horseman's operation is 'far reaching'

Dear Editor,

My name is Martin Drexler. I am a thoroughbred race horse trainer based at Woodbine and Fort Erie Racetrack.

In 2009 I moved from Manitoba to Ontario to pursue and further my occupation in a province where horse racing was supported and highly regarded.

I employ at least 15 to 20 full time workers that rely on my business directly as their source of income.

These people have been dedicated to this industry anywhere from 10 to 20 years. Indirectly, the effect of my racing operation is far reaching.

Feed distributors, farriers, vets, horse van drivers are just some of the people that rely on horse racing to provide their livelihood.

If the Liberal government was to discontinue the revenue sharing partnership with the racetracks that is currently in place, it would decimate a whole industry and in effect displace thousands of workers and send them running to the unemployment lines and thus creating an even bigger burden on the province.

I train race horses. It has been my business now for over 15 years.

I have had success and I have had disappointments but the bottom line is, I do something for a living that I feel passionate about.

I understand that not every citizen of this province is going to feel the same way that I do.

I also understand that the government can put a spin on a subject so it appeals to the to the majority of the population, which in this instance is weighing the horse racing industry against many of the most basic social services.

I am not saying that health care is not necessary or that kindergarten should be eliminated, but let's face it, we all know that this is all about votes and more votes.

If the government was losing money in this partnership, would they have been involved in it for as long as they have been?

I understand the economic climate of this province is less than desirable at the present time, but let's not take an entire industry and dispose of it with the intention of balancing the books just to realize that it did not work.

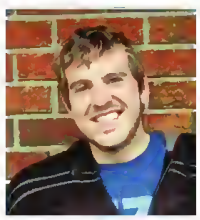
This would be a costly, damaging, and most likely irreversible decision with its negative effects being felt well beyond the racetracks of southern Ontario.

Thank You.

Martin Drexler
concerned horseman

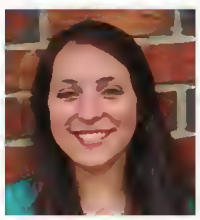
The TIMES Asks

How did you spend your March Break if you've had it already? If not, what are your plans for it this week?



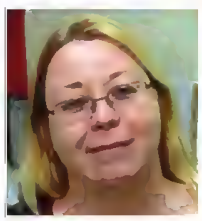
Brittany McCormick

"I went to Las Vegas and got severe sunburn from riding a moped through the desert."



Kim Pereira

"I also went to Las Vegas, lost some money and now everything is back to normal."



Petrina Istok

"I've taken next week off from work and will be spending it with my kids."

Ruth Sparks

"I've been spending most of it studying, getting ready for some big tests at Niagara College this week."

What do you think?

E-mail: editorial@forterietimes.com or call 905-871-3100, ext. 207

Get educated about horse industry before it's too late

An open letter to the provincial government

The recent proposals made by the Ontario government with regards to "cutting the subsidy" to the horse racing industry are alarmingly short sighted and completely misleading to the public.

The horse racing industry is not subsidized by the taxpayers, as you would like us to believe. In fact, its is quite the opposite, as your government's own and several independent studies have indisputably proven.

Professional and hobbyist horsemen and women comprise a large group of dedicated business persons whose enormous, year round financial contributions to their local economy is well documented.

The "$345 million subsidy" the Ontario government presents to the taxpayers as being more palatable cut to the overburdened taxpaying public, is actually a contractual partnership of revenue sharing between the horsemen of Ontario and the provincial government.

One in which the local and provincial governments have benefitted by 80 per cent of the billions of dollars of revenue generated in no small part by the horsemen, in turn, re-invest their 10 per cent of the proceeds into their local communities,

In the smaller communities particularly, we are a huge contributor to local business, many of whom along with the horse industry in Ontario would not survive, if the Ontario government were to follow through with their proposal to discontinue the current effective and profitable profit sharing revenue with the 'racinos.'

It is not a choice between racetrack and day care facilities.

You won't need day care if you don't have a job. Don't make the mistake of thinking that this won't negatively impact you, your property values or your future services, just because you might not go to the races.

The horse racing industry in Ontario directly supports over 60,000 jobs.

We are imploring the public as well as our elected leaders to educate yourselves on the ramifications of this disastrous proposal and rally to prevent it before it's too late.

Mel and Alenka Widenmaier
Port Colborne

Income Tax Preparation Quick and Easy!

March 1st - April 30th

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PUBLIC NOTICES

(1) LOOKING FOR SUMMER WORK?

The Corporation is now accepting applications for **summer student employment opportunities** in parks/cemeteries; facilities; roads; horticulture; museums and engineering. Schedules may include Saturday and Sunday. Some positions require a valid, Class G drivers' license. Further details are available at www.town.forterie.ca. Go to "Town Hall", scroll down and click on "Employment Opportunities".

Returning students MUST apply. Application forms are available on-line and at Town Hall. The deadline for receiving applications is **5:00 p.m. FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2012.**

(2) OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING ON STREETS

ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS: In an effort to keep the streets free of vehicles during the winter months for snowplowing and sanding operations, residents are reminded that no overnight parking is permitted.

Traffic By-law No. 2000-89, Section 205 provides that "No person shall park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked" on any street in Town "between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. between November 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012."

The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be exercising vigilant enforcement of By-law No. 2000-89. **Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense**, if found in violation of the by-law.

Enquiries may be directed to the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers by calling (905) 871-1600, Extension 2216 (Geoff Stephenson) or Extension 2215 (Matt Richardson).

(3) TOWN OF FORT ERIE

2012 MARCH BREAK PUBLIC SKATING

Leisureplex:

March 10th	2:00 – 3:30 pm	$1.50/Person
March 12th	2:00 – 3:30 pm	$1.50/Person
March 14th	2:00 – 3:30 pm	$1.50/Person
March 15th	2:00 – 3:30 pm	$1.50/Person
March 17th	2:00 – 3:30 pm	$1.50/Person

Crystal Ridge Arena:

March 9th	8:00 – 10:00 pm	$2.50/Person
March 11th	1:00 – 2:30 pm	$1.50/Person
March 13th	2:00 – 3:30 pm	$1.50/Person
March 16th	8:00 – 10:00 pm	$2.50/Person
March 18th	1:00 – 2:30 pm	$1.50/Person

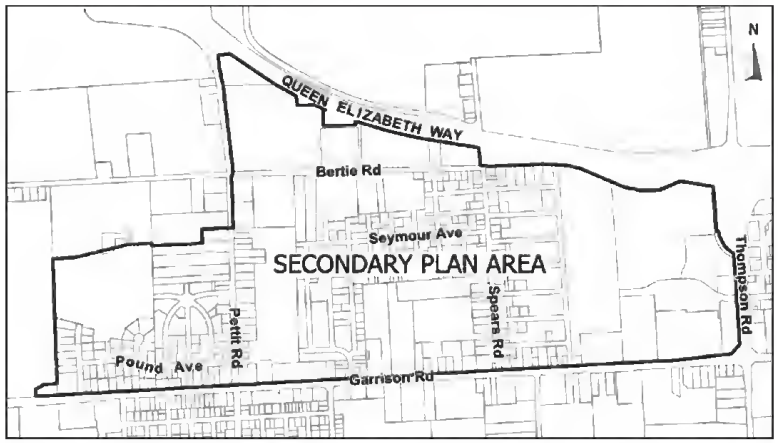
(4) PUBLIC NOTICE

SPEARS / HIGH POINTE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN / SECONDARY PLAN

INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

Material & Display Preview 6:30 PM – Presentation and Q&A 7:00 to 8:00 PM
ATRIUM & COUNCIL CHAMBERS – TOWN HALL
1 MUNICIPAL CENTRE DRIVE, FORT ERIE

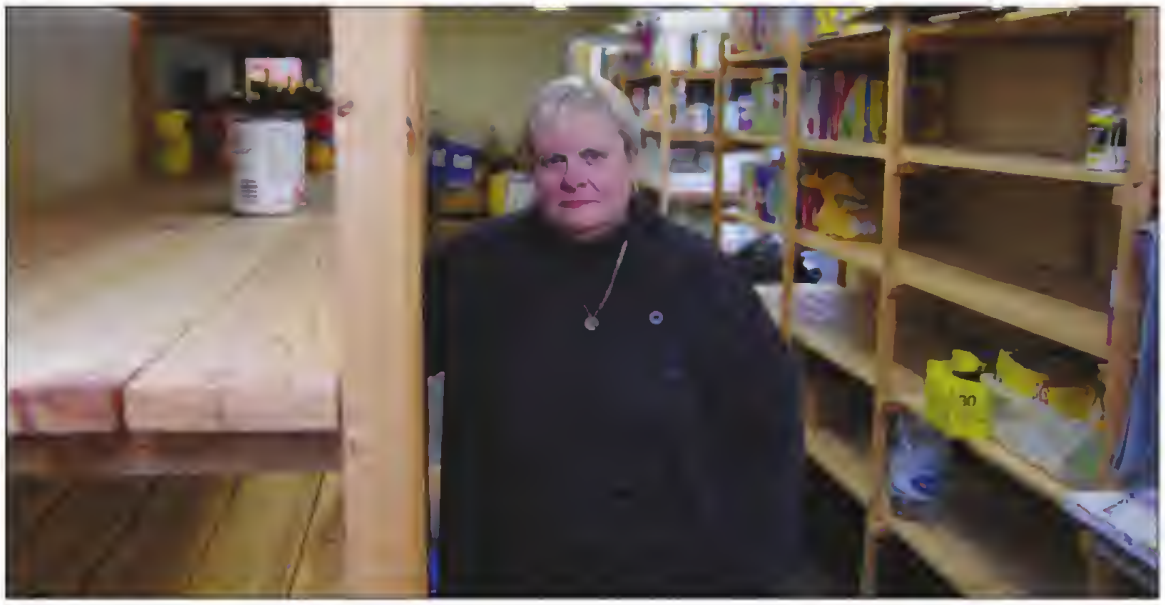


Residents, property owners, business owners and all interested citizens are invited to attend this Open House for the Spears / High Pointe Neighbourhood. The Town is undertaking the process of updating and formalizing the Neighbourhood Plan by way of Official Plan Amendment, commonly referred to as a Secondary Plan. The Plan will require adoption by Fort Erie Council and is subject to Regional Approval prior to forming part of our Official Plan. Once a Secondary Plan has been approved, it would serve as the guiding land use and policy document for the lands identified above. This is the first meeting in a series of public forums that provide attendees with an opportunity to:

- ***Comment on the proposed Neighbourhood Concept Plan***
- ***Provide comments on key issues important to existing residents and stakeholders***
- ***Provide suggestions for consideration by staff during plan formulation***

Come out and help us shape the future of the Spears / High Pointe Neighbourhood. Town Council has made no decision on the proposed Secondary Plan. For further information please contact:

Chris Millar, CPT, MCIP, RPP, Neighbourhood Planner
Community and Development Services Department
1 Municipal Centre Drive • Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2S6
(905) 871-1600 ext. 2503
cmillar@town.forterie.on.ca



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Community Outreach Program Erie manager Barb Volzke is calling out local residents, businesses and organizations to make donations to the local food bank, as many of its shelves are virtually empty.

Shelves empty at COPE

The holidays have come and gone, and so has the food supply at Community Outreach Program Erie (COPE).

The fact that the shelves at COPE are empty is no surprise. Historically, that is what they look like at this time of the year, says manager Barb Volzke.

The items needed include peanut butter, tuna fish, soup, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta and sauce, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal, toilet paper, canned fruits and vegetables, along with lunch snacks and juice boxes for children.

The local food bank has fridge space that allows for the donations of bread, milk, eggs, butter, and other perishable items.

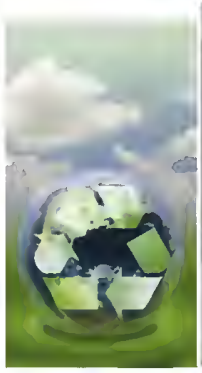
If someone wishes to make a financial donation, a charitable receipt will be issued.

"If everyone helps just a little, it will make a big difference," says Volzke.

COPE is located at 32 Dufferin Street. The phone number there is (905) 871-2526.

A sight for more eyes

Black Creek-Stevensville Lions Club members Ted Watts, Ruth Watts, Wayne Turcotte, Derek Thomas, Ann-Marie Noyes, Wayne King, Flo Fraser, Sharon Thomas and Carol Peischl with 124 pairs of used eyeglasses that will be refurbished and distributed in developing countries. The local service club takes part in this initiative every year, as Lions Clubs are also known as "Knights of the Blind."



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Cannery at Pillar and Post	905-468-2123	Restaurant Oban Inn	905-468-2165
Charles Inn	905-468-4588	Riverbend Inn	905-468-8866
Escabeche at Prince of Wales	905-468-3246	Stone Road Grille	905-468-3474
Ginger Restaurant	905-468-3871	Terrair La Cachette	905-468-1222
Hillebrand Winery Restaurant	905-468-7123	The Epicurean	905-468-3408
LIV at White Oaks	905-688-2550	Tiara at Queens Landing	905-468-2195
Peller Estates	905-468-4678	Zees Grill at Shaw Club	905-468-5715

Hundreds of people gather to raise tens of thousands

Kris Dubé
The Times

Craig Vanderklei is proud of the inspiration his daughter Alivia continues to be for people of all ages in the region.

But he is also proud of the over 500 people who attended a fundraiser for the organization he and his wife Chantal started in honour of Alivia, who passed away from cancer in March 2010.

At the Leisureplex banquet hall last Saturday, an event to support Alivia's Rainbows was held and it pulled in $33,513 for the cause.

The previous year, a grand total of $16,000 was raised and the family was more than thankful for the support.

Last weekend's generosity from everyone in attendance has him simply amazed... since they expected to reach a goal of about $20,000.

> **"We're incredibly proud of her, that she's still making an impact on people."**
>
> *— Craig Vanderklei*

"When we got to what we raised, we were stunned," said Craig.

The loss of their daughter will always be difficult for the Vanderklei's, but knowing that Alivia is still winning people's hearts is very rewarding for them.

"We're incredibly proud of her, that she's still making an impact on people," he said.

Most of the corporate donations at the event came from the local business community, but much of the support also came from people elsewhere in Niagara and the Hamilton area.

He said the response to the organization that was founded after Alivia's passing has been remarkable and they are thankful for every little bit anyone has done along the way, especially being a part of raising over $33,000 in one day.

"It makes you feel very proud to be a part of that," he said.

Alivia was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma cancer in December 2008 and on Dec. 23 she underwent surgery.

For about the next year, the young family spent about a year at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton.

In 2009, Alivia had three surgeries, seven cycles of chemotherapy, 60 radiation treatments upon hundreds of needles, scans and blood tests.

"She had an unshakeable confidence, maturity, sense of humour and love of life that made all those who came in contact with her love her," the parents say in a message at www.aliviasrainbows.com.

Alivia passed away in March 2010, but her memory and spirit lives on through the organization founded by Craig and Chantal Vanderklei.

The group supports parents dealing with pediatric cancer situations who need help with expenses, travelling to McMaster from Niagara.

"Our daughter made a positive difference in our lives and we can all make a positive difference in others' lives if we choose to. That is what Alivia's Rainbows is all about."

Over 500 people attended a fundraiser for Alivia's Rainbows last Saturday at the Leisureplex, bringing in over $33,000 for the organization, that helps cover costs for parents from Niagara who need to travel to McMaster Children's Hospital to receive cancer treatments.

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All You Can Eat Pasta & Meatballs
Thursday, March 8th, 2012
- 4:30 - 7:30pm
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- At the Door $9.00
- Take Out $7.00
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LIONS CLUB OF FORT ERIE
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Friday, March 9th, 2012
Lions Seniors Centre at 265 High Street from 5 pm to 7 pm
- Adults $10.00 Includes FREE $10.00 Fort Erie Slots Voucher for Adults
- Children (10 & under) $5.00

Takeouts also available.
We hope to see you there.
Everyone Welcome

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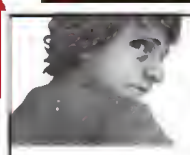
If you're a parent stuck in town with no plans and a limited budget, figuring out how to entertain the little ones for a week or two can be exhausting. Here are some ideas to kick-start your March Break plans:

Go on a mini road trip. Visit a town that you're not familiar with and spend time walking around, taking in the sights, dining at local eateries, and meeting the people. It will be a refreshing change of pace and scenery for your family.

Visit your library. Your local library is a great resource for free family entertainment. Pick up a book to learn some arts and crafts, research fun recipes, borrow kid-friendly DVDs, or check if the library is running any special March Break programs.

Kid swap. If your friend's kids are also stuck in town, arrange to watch them along with your own kids and then swap the next day. That way, you can get some much needed rest and relaxation.

Board games. Remember what those are? Playing a board game is a great way to spend time together as a family and bave face time. If your collection doesn't intrigue your kids, purchase a new game that everyone agrees on.



Seek and you'll find … Adventure!
Enter here … and take on the Challenge!
Be Bold, be Brave, be part of
MARCH BREAK @ your library!

Take in the whole story of this magical break! Five programs, three workshops and a scavenger hunt to challenge, mystify and amaze. Take a look …

5 **Days of Programs:**

Monday, Mar. 12 - "Hugo", the movie

Tuesday, March 13 - The Amazing Corbin takes you on an adventure in the realm of comedy and magic!

Wednesday, March 14 -Feel the wind from their wings as they fly overhead - owls and eagles from the Canadian Raptor Conservancy.

Thursday, March 15 - "The Muppets", movie

Friday, Mar. 16 -Mad Science is on a mission to astonish with their new Alchemy show.

All 5 programs run at 10:15 am at Centennial and 1:30 pm at Crystal Ridge. Tickets $2 each or 3 for $5.

3 **Amazing Workshops:**

Tuesday, Mar. 13 - Pick plants and build a TERRARIUM. (Kids, bring your own clear, empty 2 liter pop bottle.)

Thursday, Mar. 15 - Ready, set, MIME and SLAPSTICK … you can learn how!

Workshops run at 10:15 at Crystal Ridge and at 1:30 at Centennial. Workshop costs $3 per person. Limited space, pre-registration required.

Wednesday, Mar. 14 - Babysitting course for kids 11-14., at Centennial branch only from 10am to 4 pm. $25. Contact Dana at the Canadian Red Cross to register, 905 680-4099, ext. 251.

1 **Tick-tock Scavenger Hunt!**
Count the clocks and enter to win!
All three branches.

fortierie public library

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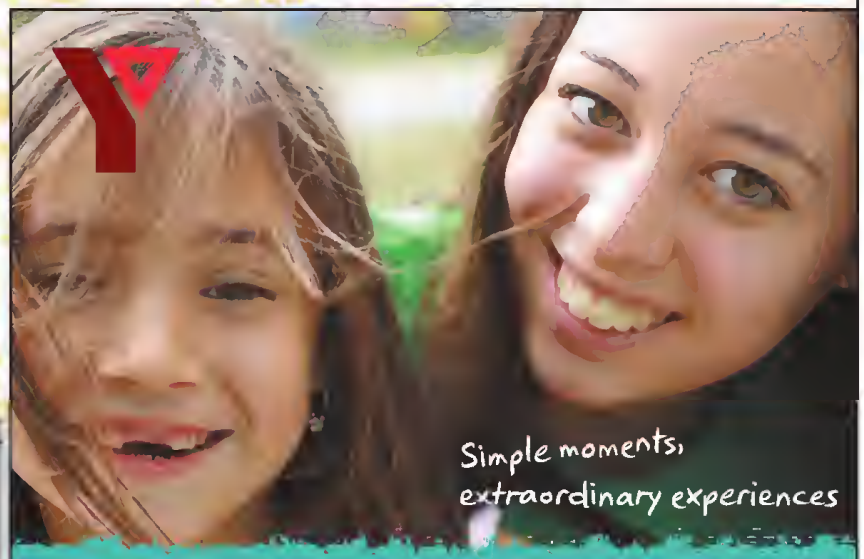
MARCH BREAK COURSE
TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH TO FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH, 2012



YMCA of Niagara
March Break Camps
March 9th & March 12th to 16th 2012
Junior and Youth Camps register daily or for the whole week.

Visit the EJ Freeland YMCA, 1555 Garrison Road
or register online today!
ymcadaycamp.ca

$5 cash fare Free local transfers

Connect to St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara Falls, Welland and Port Colborne with Niagara Region Transit.

Monday-Friday service

The Fort Erie to Niagara Falls route provides convenient trips from Fort Erie to Niagara Falls Monday to Friday. Buses leave from Wal-Mart on Thompson Rd., seven times a day beginning at 6:55 a.m. Monday to Friday passengers can transfer to the St. Catharines or Niagara Falls-bound Niagara Region Transit route (Route 50/55) at the Thorold Stone Road and Dorchester bus stop.

Saturday service

Four trips on Saturday leaving from Wal-Mart on Thompson Rd. The first trip is at 9 a.m. Transfers on Saturday can be made at the Bridge Street terminal in Niagara Falls.

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This route is operated by a Niagara Falls Transit bus. For more information on schedules, routes and trip planning visit www.niagararegion.ca/transit or call 905-685-4225 ext. 3550.

Extra fee for second trash bag or can

Starting April 30, the cost to place an extra bag or can of garbage out for curbside pick-up will be two dollars. Residents who require an additional bag or can of garbage over the weekly one bag-can limit have the option to use one of the new two dollar tags or two of their existing one dollar tags.

Existing one dollar tags will not expire.

The increased fee will allow Niagara Region to completely cover the extra costs involved in picking up additional garbage containers.

You can reduce the amount of garbage your household generates by using the Region's Blue Box, Grey Box and Green Bin programs.

Results of recent curbside garbage audits conducted throughout Niagara show that almost 50 per cent of the material in the garbage is still made up of organic material that can be diverted through the Green Bin program. Another 15 per cent of the material found in the garbage is recyclable and can be diverted using the Region's Blue and Grey Box recycling programs.

Use of these programs can help you keep the garbage generated in your home to less than one bag or can each week. If a garbage tag is still required, new garbage tags are available at a number of retail locations throughout Niagara. Please visit www.niagararegion.ca for a list of retail locations.

Residents with a medical exemption can continue to use their existing tags and continue to place a single tag on their extra bags or cans of garbage, over the one bag or can weekly limit.

Each week, all Niagara households and apartments with six units or less, can place one bag or can of garbage, and an unlimited number of recyclables and organics in their Blue Box, Grey Box and Green Bin out for curbside collection.

The new fee is only for those residents who require extra bags or cans of garbage over the one can or bag limit. For more information on the Region's curbside garbage and recycling collection, please visit the Region's website at www.niagararegion.ca.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

The Town of Fort Erie's community and development services department participated in the Bowl for Kids' Sake campaign last Sunday as 'The Pinheads.' The disco-loving unit consisted of Signe Hansen, Chris Miller, Matt Kernahan, Amanda D'Angelo, Susan Dunsmore and Rick Brady.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

The team from South Coast Cookhouse took a break from the lanes on Saturday, to pose for a photo. Representing the Crystal Beach restaurant were Jen Forte, Justin Burnett, Pat Chambers, Pam Thomas, Tim Smith and Phil Smith.

Bowl for Kids Sake in jeopardy of reaching goal

Kris Dubé
The Times

Getting a group of friends, family or co-workers together at the local bowling alley for a cause has been a tradition for the last nine years in Fort Erie.

The local Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) agency, along with the rest of the region, holds Bowl for Kids' Sake to benefit programs offered by the local non-profit and this year a goal of $45,000 was set in Fort Erie.

Unfortunately, if the current pace of fundraising keeps up, that goal will not be reached. It will be significantly less, says BBBS executive director Sondra Barrett.

"We've had less teams participate this year," said Barrett, who estimates the agency is on pace to bring in only about $30,000.

> **"We've had less teams participate this year."**
>
> *—Sondra Barrett*

But there are positives she has seen, as many of the individuals who have hit the lanes seem to be making that extra effort to fill their pledge sheet.

"The average pledge per bowler is actually quite high," she said.

Donations can be made by calling the BBBS office at (905) 871-8836 until the end of March and online at www.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/forterie, until the end of April.

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Tracy Neumann

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

Proposed Regional Policy Plan Amendment (RPPA 1-2012) Niagara's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre

Purpose of the Open House

The purpose of this Public Open House is to present the proposed Regional Policy Plan Amendment RPPA 1-2012: Niagara's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre and to receive comments and answer questions from the public regarding the proposed Amendment.

What is the Purpose and Effect of the Proposed Amendment to the Region's Policy Plan?

The Region's Growth Management Strategy, Niagara 2031 includes policies which implement the Provincial Growth Plan's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre designations. RPPA 1-2012, Niagara's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre Amendment provides strategic direction for the development of employment lands within the Gateway and outlines a land use strategy to support economic development and job creation in these areas.
Niagara Region has prepared draft policies and mapping for RPPA 1-2012 which can be viewed at **www.niagararegion.ca.** Niagara Region would like to obtain your views on this important policy initiative.

Have Your Say

Public input on this proposed amendment is welcomed and encouraged. Three Open Houses in the municipalities of Port Colborne, Welland and Fort Erie are being held to obtain your view. You can provide your input by attending one of the open houses where comment sheets will be made available. Representatives from the Region, their consultants and the respective local municipality will be present at each Open House to answer questions and discuss the next steps in the Gateway Amendment.

The three **Public Open Houses** will be held at the following locations:

Thursday, March 22, 2012	Wednesday March 28, 2012	Thursday March 29, 2012
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Council Chambers	Community Room	Front Atrium
Port Colborne City Hall	Welland City Hall	Fort Erie Town Hall
66 Charlotte Street	60 East Main Street	1 Municipal Centre Drive
Port Colborne, ON	Welland, ON	Fort Erie, ON

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Brian Dick, MCIP, RPP, Policy Planner, Integrated Community Planning Department
at (905) 685-1571 ext.3365 or brian.dick@niagararegion.ca

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in the three Open Houses, please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252, as soon as possible, or accessibility@niagararegion.ca to make the appropriate arrangements.

Niagara Region
www.niagararegion.ca

Cultural Capital of Canada / Capitale culturelle du Canada 2012

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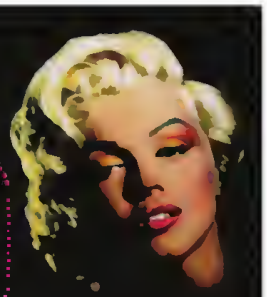
Customer service

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

On Friday, Staples on Garrison Road presented local resident Deanna Schweitzer with a $1,000 gift card. At a previous visit, she filled out a customer service survey and was chosen as the chain's monthly winner across Canada. With her are Pedro Lebron and Todd Robinson.

GINO BRIGANTINO
Welcomes Home
CAPELLI SALON



Re-Opening
MARCH 6TH, 2012
New Number: 289-320-7965

27TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS
COMPETITIVE PRICING FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

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Cut and Blowdry $30.00
Wash & Blowdry $14.00
Cut & Colour $68.00
Cut & Highlights $85.00
Cut, Colour & Highlights $95.00

MEN'S SERVICES
Cut $16.00
Shampoo, Cut & Style $20.00
Barber Cuts $15.00

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Rafik Sharobim stands in front of his Jarvis Street Phamacy on Friday. In the last two weeks, he says many customers have confused Jarvis Pharma (formerly Pharmetics) filing for bankruptcy with his place of business.

Business as usual at Jarvis Street Pharmacy

Kris D

An article in the Feb. 18 issue of the Times has a lot of people confused, says a business owner on Jarvis Street.

Rafik Sharobim, owner and pharmacist at Mrs. O's Pharmasave, says many of his customers have misinterpreted the story that ran two weeks ago about Jarvis Pharma, the pharmaceutical plant just down the road from his business, that has filed for bankruptcy.

Many customers, some of them senior in age, misread the story and thought the pharmacy was in financial trouble and was considering closing its doors.

That is not the case.

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"At first, I thought it was just one or two customers who misunderstood," he said.

He estimates that about a half dozen people per day, entered the drug store to ask if they were going out of business.

This is not a retraction, as the article that was printed in the Feb. 18 issue was accurate and without any errors.

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450 Garrison Rd. Unit 1, Fort Erie, On L2A 1N2
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The Fort Erie Times

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Notices A910

THANK YOU ST. JUDE for favours received. D.L.

Legal Notices A900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

ALL PERSONS having claims against the Estate of **WILLIAM ROBERT BARKER,** late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on or about February 8, 2012 are notified to send full particulars to the undersigned on or before March 19, 2012, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have notice.

Dated this 27th. day of February, 2012
JOHN T. TEAL Esq.,
Barrister and Solicitor, P.O. Box 247, 253 Niagara Boulevard, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 5M9.

Solicitor for the Estate Trustee
William Gordon Barker

Legal Notices A900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS IN THE ESTATE OF HUGH JAMES CORCORAN

All persons having claims against the Estate of HUGH JAMES CORCORAN late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 17th day of September, 2011 are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of March 2012, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2012

Susan Corcoran and Wayne H. Redekop
Estate Trustees, by their solicitors
Jones, Jamieson & Redekop
288 Ridge Road
Ridgeway, Ontario
L0S 1N0
Telephone 905-894-0220
Fax 905-894-5356

Community Services

Coming Events A940

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY of Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets first Wed of each month (except July & Aug) 1:30 -3 p.m. Residence on Garrison 373 Garrison Rd. Fort Erie. 905-687-3914.

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Coming Events A940

Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, March 8th
Continuous Serve 5 - 7 p.m.
All Saints Anglican Church
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Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad and Dessert
Adults $8.00
Children 5-12 $5.00
Under 5 Free.

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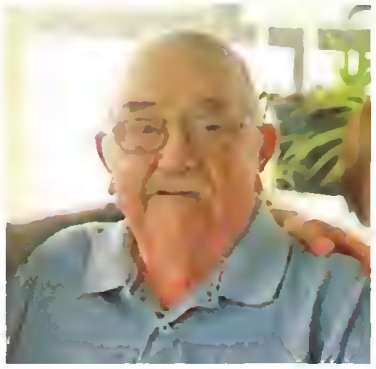
Deaths



GALLANT, James Alban - Son of the late Helena Shreenan and John Gallant. Predeceased by his brothers and sisters Florence Burnette, St. Clair Gallant, Reymond Gallant, Edne Frances Leerd end Rose Marie Gallant. Also predeceased by niece Sharon MacKenzie Boutilier. Survived by his sisters Mary Keefe, Eileen MacKenzie end brothers Cyril Gallent end Lloyd Gallent. He has 19 nieces and nephews. Al worked for the Ontario Jockey Club and retired after 35 years of service. He was elso a taxi driver in Toronto for a number of years. He leaves behind many friends and his extended family Ernest and Mary Reinhart and their siblings elong with the entire Pessero family. Also grieving the loss are his angels Martina and Andrea. At Al's request cremation has taken place and a Funeral Mass will be held at St. Micheel's Cetholic Church, Central Avenue, Fort Erie on Monday March 5 at 11:00 AM, followed by a reception at the Fort Erie Legion Branch #71, 130 Garrison Rd Fort Erie. In lieu of flowers donations to the Canadian Legion Poppy Fund would be gratefully appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-894-0120
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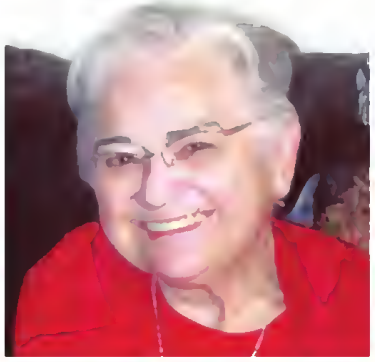
Deaths



GOTTSCHLICH (Haight), Vera Patience - August 14, 1931 - February 27, 2012. Born in Unity, Saskatchewan, to Walter and Vera Haight, passed away at the age of 80 in the Leduc Community Hospital having succumbed to cancer. She is survived by her husband Irvin, daughter Cara (Grant), a son Rob (Angie) end grendchildren Rachelle, Ethan, Aiden, Avery, Shea-Ann and Aron, Vera's brother Don (Gloria) Haight of Unity, SK, also sister-in-law Duane (Morley) of Cemrose, brothers-in-lew, Murray (Patricia) of Toronto, Lee (Crystal), Durwill (Laura) of Edmonton and several nieces end nephews. Vera in the 1950's and 60's was e nurse et the Edmonton Cencer Clinic. In her later years she volunteered at the Cross Cancer Clinic for several years till she retired 3 yeers ego. In lieu of flowers, family has requested contributions be made to the Cross Cancer Clinic Volunteers Department, 11560 University Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T6G 1Z2 (780)432-8771. At Vera's request there will be no funeral service held. A private memorial for family will be held at a later date.
12524366

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As it dawns another year
In our lonely hours of thinking
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Lovingly remembered by
Lou, Gail, Cara and Michael
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Mary Beck
Passed away March 6, 2011
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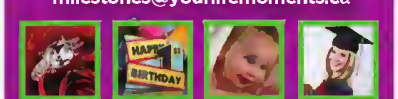

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Meteors end regular season with Kids' Night at Leisureplex

Matt McNevin
Special to the Times

The Fort Erie Meteors were unable to finish the regular season with a win, but they are looking toward the playoffs with optimism.

The Meteors, who lost to the Port Colborne Pirates 7-3 on Saturday night, finished the season with a 12-36-3 record and finished seventh in the Golden Horseshoe Conference of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League (GOJHL).

Meteors head coach Clint Strachan said he didn't think his team got up for this game because it didn't mean anything for them.

"It's obviously not the result we wanted. We had some strong points but overall it wasn't the game we wanted to have. We're looking forward to getting ready for the playoffs, so this game is really in the back of our minds already."

Fort Erie goalie Matt Stuart, who replaced Connor Visca in net halfway through the second period after Visca let in five goals on 20 shots, said they both let in bad goals, but "it's all leading into the playoffs, so it's a clean slate now."

"It's a new season," Stuart said of the playoffs. "Nothing matters that happened tonight, it's done and over."

While the game was the last regular season game for the team, it was also the final regular season game for two of the Meteors' players.

Stuart and Fort Erie captain Andrew Ansell won't be returning to the team next season because they've reached GOJHL age limit. Both players were born in 1991.

"It's a chapter in the life, a chapter in the book," Ansell said on his time in the league. "It was fun and it was a good career."

He said during his three years with the Meteors, he's made friendships that will last a lifetime.

"I came up here not knowing anybody and I made a couple best friends that I'll have for the rest of my life," Ansell said.

Strachan said Ansell is a hard-working leader on the team who plays hard every game.

"That's Andrew Ansell for you. He works hard and leads the boys and he'll do the same going into the playoffs."

Stuart says his one year in the league was a "great experience."

"It was a hard league to play in and I got to push myself and I got to meet a bunch of great guys."

Fort Erie will play against the Niagara Falls Canucks in the first round of the playoffs.

Strachan said the Meteors will stand in the Canucks way during the first round.

"We're not going to make it easy for them and we're looking forward to that challenge. It doesn't matter how many points they finished above us, both of us are starting at zero. I think that if we go out and work hard and play for 60 minutes we'll have a good chance and we'll give them a good run."

The Meteors played their first playoff game last night in Niagara Falls. Game two is tonight at the Leisureplex at 7:15 p.m.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie Meteors alternate captain Cameron Fairgrieve looks for a pass during last Saturday's final regular season game for the 2011-12 season.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Allyson and Zachery Bush choosing their ammo for a puck toss that took place at last Saturday's kids' night, hosted by the Fort Erie Meteors at the Leisureplex.

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International Women's Day
March 8, 2012

I am a woman, and proud of it

For the future of women

International Women's Day is celebrated in many different countries around the world. It is a day during which women are recognized for their achievements, whether they are of a national, cultural, economic, or political nature. It is an occasion to look back on earlier battles for rights fought by pioneers in equality, and above all it is a time to prepare the future for generations of women yet to be born.

In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations initiated International Women's Day, to be celebrated every March 8. Two years later, the General Assembly recognized the role of women in the fight for peace and development.

Since its beginnings, this event has taken on a whole new dimension, as much in developed countries as in the developing world. The feminist movement has had an enormous influence in turning this day of celebration into a rallying point for the fight for every woman's right to participate in the political and economic processes. This day is also the ideal moment for local and international women's advocacy groups to lobby for positive change and to celebrate the courage and determination of ordinary women to thrive as individuals and support their families in a multitude of ways.

It is essential that women be a part of lasting solutions to society's social, economic, and political problems. Women's freedom, safety, participation, and leadership are central to the balance of all things and all public institutions. Let's think this March 8 about how we can make this happen, not just at home but all around the world.

Greater Fort Erie Chamber Of Commerce & Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre Invite you to attend the *7th annual*
International Women's Day Networking Luncheon
Friday, March 9, 2012
Bridgewater Country Club, 700 Gilmore Road
Contact the Fort Erie Chamber for more details
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